UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/251
9 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the eve of the twenty-first century, the United Nations is endeavouring to liquidate the crimes against humanity that have gone unpunished in the past. Taking note of these ongoing efforts, I would like to bring to the attention of the Security Council the use of biological and chemical weapons and large-scale massacres of innocent populations by the United States of America during the Korean war, abusing the name of the United Nations.

The United States, claiming to be the "defender of peace", has been denying the war crimes against humanity committed by its troops during the Korean war.

At the time of the Korean war, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and other international organizations dispatched an investigation team to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, confirmed the facts and made them public to the world.

Nevertheless, the inhuman atrocities committed by the United States troops during the Korean war remained unknown to the world because the United States militarily tightly controlled and managed the press.

Recently, certain academic circles in the United States have made efforts to crack the secrets of the crimes of United States troops, and history scientists Stephen Endicott and Edward Hagerman published a book entitled The United States and Biological Warfare: Secrets from the Early Cold War and Korea (Indiana University Press) on the basis of declassified documents.

The United States troops, far from defending peace in Korea, waged a war of human slaughter by mercilessly killing all the living things and destroying all the man-made objects on the surface of land. These are inhuman war crimes, which should certainly be disclosed to the world.

In this regard, I wish to point out with particular emphasis that all the unethical war crimes of the United States against the Korean people during the Korean war were committed in the name of the United Nations and that this

constitutes a direct challenge to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

I hold that the United Nations should make an issue of the use by the United States of biological and chemical weapons and the large-scale massacres and abuse of the United Nations name, in order to prevent their recurrence.

At present, too, the United States is attempting to isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, distorting the image of it by linking it to biological and chemical weapons, while driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to the extreme.

In my previous letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, I stated that the United States was trying to maintain the "United Nations Command" in south Korea for the purpose of using the name of the United Nations in military attacks against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in case of "emergency".

The Security Council should take measures to retrieve the United Nations flag and name from the United States troops in south Korea as early as possible to deter the United States from further abusing the United Nations name for its strategic purposes.

In this context, I enclose herewith an extract from the report of the Investigation Team of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers published on 31 March 1952 on the basis of confirmation of the crimes on the spot (see annex).

I would be grateful if you should have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Extract from the report dated 31 March 1952 of the Investigation Team of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers on the crimes committed by the United States of America in Korea

The United States of America made an indiscriminate bombardment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in wanton violation of the norms of international law and humanitarian principles during the past Korean war.

The United States used germs and chemical weapons and committed genocide. Because of that, innocent inhabitants were mercilessly killed, and industrial facilities, schools, hospitals and other cultural establishments used for peaceful purposes were destroyed.

In order to investigate the genocide committed by the United States against the Korean people, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers formed a law expert investigation team from eight countries, including Austria, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands and France. This team visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from 3-19 March 1952 and made public the following result of its investigation.

1. Bacteriological warfare of the United States of America

When the team arrived in Korea, it was immediately faced with the unexpected task of looking into a very serious case concerning the application by United States army troops in Korea of bacteriological weapons against the Korean army and non-combatants.

The team members collected first-hand evidence in various locations in the country. In many cases, the team found a special variety of flies, fleas, spiders, beetles, bedbugs, crickets, mosquitos and other insects. Most of them were not seen in Korea.

Most of them were found in the snow and icy rivers or between grasses and stones, far away from inhabited areas. At that time, the temperature (1 degree centigrade in January and 5 degrees centigrade in February at the maximum) was extremely low, making it impossible for insects to survive. And different insects, including flies and spiders, were, on a frequent basis, found in the same place in a large or mixed group, where they normally didn't fly together. This gave rise to doubts about the appearance of those insects in such places.

The expert investigation proved that the insects were infected with a virus.

On 30 January 1952, flies, bedbugs and spiders were found alive in the snow and between stones in the eastern and southern areas of Ichon, Kangwon Province. The investigation by the experts determined that the flies were infected with cholera virus. The debris of a container was found 3 or 4 metres away from the

place where the insects were discovered, and the container was designed to open up immediately as it touched the ground.

On 18 February 1952, flies, spiders and ladybirds were found in Balnam-ri, Taeri sub-county, Anju county in South Pyongan Province. The insects all survived. At that time, such flies and spiders were never seen in the region. The temperature above the ground was 20 degrees below zero centigrade. The expert investigation concluded that the insects were infected with pest virus.

On 25 February 1952, flies and other insects were found five times in Kaechon county, South Pyongan Province. The insects discovered were the first ever to be found.

On 3 March 1952, a swarm of flies were found to have been bundled together in one square yard in Koum-ri, Jasan sub-county, Sunchon county in South Pyongan Province. The flies were found on the snow at 10 degrees centigrade, but they were still alive. It was abnormal to see flies outdoors at that time of the year.

On 5 March 1952, flies were found to have swarmed in small and large numbers on the road in Nammun-ri, Junggu, South Pyongan Province. The next day, cholera broke out.

These individual cases investigated by the inspection team represent only a small portion of the facts. That is because the inspection team could not visit every affected place.

It was proved that a large number of insects were infected by pest, cholera and other contagious diseases.

Containers were discovered near the places where the insects were found, and they were built to be used for carrying the insects in large numbers.

The containers were confirmed to have carried a plate written in English. There occurred an outbreak of pest and cholera immediately after the insects were found.

The investigation team could not but reach a conclusion that the United States planes dropped insects in Korea that were infected with contagious diseases.

2. Use of chemical weapons by the United States

United States planes used suffocative and other gas or chemical weapons from at least 6 May 1951.

On 6 May 1951, three B-29 bombers dropped bombs in Samhwa-ri, Hupo-ri, Chukdong-ri, Yongjong-ri and Yongsu-ri between 5.05 and 6.30 p.m., killing 1,379 people. Among them, 480 people died of suffocation and 647 people were poisoned by gas. The symptoms of the dead were as follows: breathing difficulty, hoarse voice, dizziness, coughing, tears, snivelling, pain and

emesis of blood. In the regions bombarded by gas bombs, grass changed its colour into yellow brown, things including copper alloy into blue green and silver rings into a dusty colour.

On 1 September 1951, two bombs were dropped in a village of Yonsong-ri and Wonchol-ri, Hwanhae Province. Contrary to the normal case, this bombing produced a fainter noise and exploded in space, producing a black smoke. This was followed by a yellowish green cloud spreading on the surface of the ground. As a result, 4 civilians were killed and another 40 people were poisoned. The symptoms and results were similar to the one found in the bombardment of Nampo on 6 May 1951.

At about 4 p.m., on 9 January 1952, two bombers dropped bombs on a village called Hakson-ri located in the north of Wonsan. Thirty-eight people were poisoned. Symptoms were similar to those found during the Nampo bombardment.

The above facts prove without a doubt that the United States troops in the Korean war possessed all kinds of chemical weapons and used them, on many occasions, in killing ordinary people, thereby producing many casualties.

3. Massacre by the United States in Sinchon

In Sinchon county, 35,383 inhabitants (19,149 men and 16,234 women) were murdered during the period of occupation by United States troops from 17 October to 7 December 1950.

The investigation thereon gave conclusive evidence of the following facts:

- The United States army troops committed a massive killing of about 900 men and women, including around 300 children, behind the building of the County People's Committee on 18 October 1950. Included among the female victims were also pregnant women.

- The United States troops confined 400 people underground and burnt them alive in the area of Pujong-ri on 18 October 1950. The burnt bodies remained underground until the area was liberated.

- The investigation team inspected the graves where the massacre of 20 October 1950 had been committed. Some were unearthed in the presence of the investigation team. The team also visited the air raid shelter and warehouse where the massive killing was committed. Burn marks were left on the walls of the sites.

- Another massacre was committed in mid-November 1950. Nearly 500 people were killed, including women and children.

- United States troops buried almost 400 people alive in Sangson-ri of Yongjin sub-county, Sinchon county.

- During their occupation, United States troops arrested 2,000 inhabitants and employed all methods in killing them in Solmae-ri of Rowol sub-county, Sinchon county.

- On 7 December 1950, when the United States troops had to beat a retreat in the Sinchon area, massive killings were committed against approximately 900 men and women at the two warehouses in the area of Wonam-ri, on the order of lieutenant Harrison, the then commander of the United States troops occupying that area. More than 200 children were also killed in one of the warehouses. The United States troops poured gasoline over the clothes of the people, set fire to them, and then threw hand-grenades inside the building through windows. A Korean woman locked in the building together with her two children barely succeeded in pulling the children outside the window. One child was shot to death and the other escaped the scene. But the mother was burnt to death.

Such crimes committed by the United States in Korea are not isolated incidents. They were planned and deliberate criminal acts which caused a detrimental effect to world peace.